

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 JUSE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1173
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, NL
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF MOLUCCANS BRINGS ON CIVIL DISTURBANCES

REF: THE HAGUE 4508

1. VIOLENCE ERUPTED FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE EVENING IN THE NORTHERN DUTCH TOWN OF ASSEN WHERE EIGHT SOUTH MOLUCCANS ARE ON TRIAL FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SEIZURE OF A TRAIN AND AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE COURT-HOUSE, SURROUNDED BY A PORTABLE FENCE AND CLOSELY GUARDED SINCE THE TRIAL BEGAN SEPT. 6, IS NOW REINFORCED BY SANDBAG EMPLACEMENTS AND MORE ELEMENTS OF THE HIGHLY TRAINED ROYAL CONSTABULARY. DURING THE NIGHT OF SEPT. 7 TWO NURSERY SCHOOLS WERE BURNED TO THE GROUND IN THE NEARBY MOLUCCAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND A FIRE IN A RED CROSS BUILDING WAS EXTINGUISHED BY FIREMEN ONLY WHEN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS WERE MOVED TO SHIELD THEM FROM GUNFIRE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. ONE POLICEMAN WAS WOUNDED AND IN THE LAST TWO DAYS SEVERAL MOLUCCANS HAVE BEEN INJURED. SOUTH MOLUCCANS IN A SMALL TOWN NEAR ROTTERDAM ALSO RIOTED LAST NIGHT, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS.

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2. LOCAL MOLUCCAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN ASSEN HAVE TRIED TO CALM THE SITUATION BY, FOR EXAMPLE, GOING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD APPEALING TO THE YOUTHS TO BEHAVE PEACEABLY. BUT SUCH APPEALS SEEM TO HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THE MOLUCCAN YOUTHS, AMONG WHOM ARE ELEMENTS STILL COMMITTED TO VIOLENCE. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN ASSEN ARE CLOSED. MOLUCCAN MOTHERS ARE TOLD TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN INDOORS AND ARMORED AND POLICE

PATROLS IN MOLUCCAN NEIGHBORHOODS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED.

3. THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT, AS IS ITS HABIT, HAS NOT REACTED PUBLICLY TO THE LATEST INCIDENTS. CRITICIZED BY ONE PARLIAMENTARIAN FOR NOT HAVING DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THE MOLUCCANS SINCE JUNE, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO ISSUE A POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING THE MOLUCCAN COMMUNITY SOMETIME DURING OCTOBER.

4. THE DUTCH COURT IN ASSEN WILL HEAR FINAL ARGUMENTS FROM THE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE TODAY, SEPT. 9.

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